



# All Saints Carshalton, Church of England Primary School

## Policy for Parental Involvement

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Next Review - Summer 2019

## **Introduction**

All parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Children's learning is improved when we work in partnership with their parents or carers, and their wider family. We therefore believe in close co-operation with all families, and in regular consultation between the home and the school.

## **Aims**

Our aims through parental involvement are:

- to enhance the learning experiences of all pupils;
- to encourage parents and carers to be involved in the children's learning;
- to provide a partnership between home and school, fostering understanding and support for our ethos and vision;
- to ensure that all families feel welcome and valued;
- to ensure that maximum use is made of all these adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities.

## **Involvement in the life of the school**

Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school or the parent-teacher association. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success, and a viewing public for a lot of the pupils' learning.

Regular newsletters are sent home, and each new family receives a copy of the school prospectus, which is also available on the school website.

Parents can view a range of written information on the school website.

## **Involvement in children's learning**

Parents and carers can talk with teachers after school on an informal basis on most days.

Appointments to see a teacher or the head teacher can be made through the school office, and can be set up as soon as required in most instances.

There are opportunities for parents to have a formal discussion with their child(ren)'s teacher at the following times during the year - Autumn and Spring Parents' Evenings. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views.

An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is sent home in the summer term. An acknowledgement slip is attached, and parents may request a meeting with the teacher to discuss the contents of the report.

Curriculum workshops are organised to assist parents and carers in supporting their child(ren)'s learning.

Policy documents, schemes of work and National Curriculum guidance are readily available for parents and carers to view on the school website.

Curriculum letters are sent to each family at the start of each term, detailing the aspects of learning each child will undertake, and how families might support that learning, for example by visiting museums, galleries, websites, etc.

Teachers in Early Years and Key Stage 1 email home (via the office) weekly newsletters outlining the learning and activities for the coming week.

Home-school books may detail specific daily requirements.

Parents are informed about the home learning schedules in the class newsletter each term. We value parental support regarding the completion of these tasks.

National Curriculum assessments as well as records of progress and achievement are also readily available, as appropriate, to each child.

Parents and carers are invited to our 'class assemblies', when children have the opportunity to talk about their learning to those present.

Periodically, parents will be invited into their child's class to see their learning such as at the end of a unit of learning.

## **Types of help at school**

Each term, through a letter from the class teacher, we invite parents and carers to help in school.

Parents and carers are invited to help on a termly basis with groups and activities in class (e.g. listening to children read, or helping with practical activities).

Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany school groups on educational visits, including, in some instances, assisting with transport arrangements.

Parents and carers are invited, where possible, to visit classes and groups of children to give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they are experts.

The governing body includes parent governors who are elected by parental vote.

We value the work of All Saints Parent Teacher Association (ASPTA). This body of parents and school staff works voluntarily to raise money for the school.

## **Organisational arrangements**

It is necessary to organise a personal background check with the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) on any person who will be working with children in school, prior to that person's involvement.

Insurance cover will be organised regarding parents' and carers' work at school, but those involved in transporting children in private vehicles will have to check their own insurance arrangements in this regard.

All helpers must sign in and sign out of school when visiting, for security reasons.

All helpers working with children in class are asked to check the purpose and details of the activity, before commencement, by talking with the teacher.

All helpers are asked to inform the school in advance if possible, should they be unable to attend school at a pre-arranged time.

All helpers will be reminded of the confidential nature of their work in school.

## **Information and consultation**

Our home-school agreement, signed by pupils, parents and the school, details the responsibilities and expectations of all parties.

The school will make every effort to consult parents and carers, both formally and informally, about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives.

Parents or carers of a child with a disability or medical need are asked to keep the school fully informed about any relevant issues, so that the school can make all reasonable efforts to meet the requirements of that child.

The school values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on parents' and carers' views, wherever possible.

The teacher on duty (including the head teacher and deputy head teacher) can be approached informally before and after school, and will take careful account of any information passed to them and forward it to the relevant staff.

Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through the annual parent survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme.

The governing body publishes minutes of its full governing body meetings each term.

After an Ofsted inspection parents and carers will receive a summary of the findings, and later on they will be sent a summary of the action plan written in response to the report.